

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the following remarks.

Further to the amendments to the claims filed on May 3, 2010, which have been entered, claim 1 has been amended to clarify an order of the transparent material, the layer having photocatalytic activity-based antistaining properties, and the cured product formed from a curable composition as supported by the specification at page 3, lines 18-22 and page 89, lines 23-34. Claim 19 has been amended editorially. Claim 27 has been added as supported by the specification at page 87, lines 4-5. No new issues are raised by the amendments to the claims.

Claims 1-3, 5-14, 19, and 21-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kanamori et al. (International Patent Application Publication No. WO 02/085985) (the English equivalent U.S. Patent No. 7,297,743 is cited in the rejection. Hereinafter the referred portions of Kanamori are those of the English equivalent) in view of Chikuni et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,755,867). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants note that the Chikuni reference is added to this rejection as a secondary reference responding to the item 2 in the Advisory Action on page 2 mailed May 28, 2010.

Claim 1 recites that the structure includes a transparent material, a layer having photocatalytic activity-based antistaining properties (“photocatalytic layer”) provided on a surface of the transparent material, and a cured product provided on the photocatalytic layer. Thus, the structure of claim 1 includes at least three layers.

Kanamori discloses a curable composition that includes titanium dioxide (TiO_2) (see example 4 at coln. 26, lines 46-63), and Kanamori fails to disclose that the layer including TiO_2 is a layer separate from a cured layer formed from the curable composition as claim 1 recites and thus further fails to disclose that the structure has at least three layers, in which the transparent layer, the photocatalytic layer, and the cured product are formed in this order from the bottom required by claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 is distinguished from Kanamori.

Chikuni discloses a coating composition on an article and further discloses that the coating composition may include photocatalytic particles such as TiO₂ (see abstract, coln. 8, lines 28-33, coln. 9, lines 61-63, and coln. 10, lines 23-27). Thus, Chikuni also fails to disclose that the structure includes at least three layers such as the transparent material, the photocatalytic layer provided on a surface of the transparent material, and the cured product provided on the photocatalytic layer as claim 1 recites, and Chikuni does not remedy the deficiencies of Kanamori.

Accordingly, claim 1 and claims 2-3, 5-14, 19, and 21-23, which ultimately depend from claim 1, are distinguished from Kanamori in view of Chikuni, and this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim 27, which depends from claim 1, is distinguished from Kanamori in view of Chikuni for at least the same reasons as discussed above.

Claims 15-18 and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kanamori et al. (International Patent Application Publication No. WO 02/085985) as evidenced by Fujita et al. (Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 2000-178456) (the English equivalents U.S. Patent No. 7,297,743 to Kanamori and U.S. 7,081,494 to Fujita are cited in the rejection). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 15-18 and 20, which ultimately depend from claim 1, are distinguished from Kanamori for at least the same reasons as discussed for claim 1 above.

Fujita discloses a curable composition (see abstract) and fails to disclose a structure that has at least three layers such as the transparent material, the photocatalytic layer provided on a surface of the transparent material, and the cured product provided on the photocatalytic layer as claim 1 recites. Accordingly, Fujita does not remedy the deficiencies of Kanamori, and this rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, Applicants request reconsideration of the application in the form of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



HAMRE, SCHUMANN, MUELLER &
LARSON, P.C.
P.O. Box 2902
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0902
(612) 455-2800

By:



Douglas P. Mueller
Reg. No. 30,300

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DPM/my/jes